

SMOKE SIGNALS

Volume 43/Number 4 June/July 2011



Administration's Message

Dear Residents:

Memorial Day has passed and Independence Day is fast approaching. Summer has begun and we all are looking forward to vacations and the joy of being outdoors at cook-outs and graduation parties. Our new Village Board has been sworn in and is hard at work for all of us. As we begin our new terms and face both the challenges and the opportunities that lie ahead, it is important that we are all on the same page. Accordingly, it is appropriate to set the record straight regarding some misinformation that was disseminated in the Village prior to the April 5th election.

On Memorial Day, we remembered all of our servicemen who made the ultimate sacrifice in defense of our country and the preservation of our democracy. We also honored all past and current members of our armed forces for the sacrifices they made and make for us every day. The idea for what we celebrate since 1967 as Memorial Day began in 1868. At that time, Commander-in-chief John A. Logan, Grand Army of the Republic, inaugurated this observance (formerly called Decoration Day) to honor those who fought to preserve the Union during the Civil War. Since then, the observance has expanded to include all veterans and those who died in the service of our country since the United States of America was established. As we celebrate Independence Day this 4th of July, let us all keep in mind that these special days mean more than hot dogs on the grill. They are for us to remember those men and women who served in the military to secure this freedom for us. God bless the United States, Land of the Free, Because of the Brave!

Next, on behalf of the VBT and our residents, I would like to take this opportunity to extend our congratulations to all IHP graduates from pre-school to PhD's. Your accomplishments are a source of pride to your families and to our community. We wish you well in your future endeavors!

Turning to our local government, I would like to extend my congratulations to my colleagues Village Clerk **Joe Consolo** and Trustees **Brian Bailey**, **Norm Schnauffer** and **Matt Walsh** on their successful re-election to office. These gentlemen join Trustees **Debbie Anselmo**, **Anne Bermier** and **Carol Coleman** as our team of dedicated elected officials. I appreciate their devotion and earnestness in carrying out the business of government in Indian Head Park. It is a great honor for me to be associated with these high caliber individuals who bring integrity and experience to

the table and a willingness to use their talents and time for the benefit and betterment of our entire community. When people find something to criticize about Indian Head Park and yet offer no real practical solutions, our Trustees are the ones who strive to determine if the perceived problems are real or imaginary and look for ways to resolve the bona fide concerns. I am privileged to be associated with all of them and to have their collective knowledge and experience to rely upon in the governance of our great Village. Thanks to all of them for their continued devoted involvement.

Four years ago when I was sworn in for my first term as mayor, no one could foresee the coming economic downturn in our Nation or its impact on our State and local governments. Looking back over the past four years, I can tell you that what has taken place is not what I expected. I am sure that is true for all of you as well. We have held the line on spending and are getting by. Perhaps not as well as we would like but we are focused for now and doing what we need to do. As a good friend told me, "they don't hand out gold medals for getting by". Yet, for the Village Board whose job it is to know what it takes to get by, I would give each of them a gold medal for doing just that. I assure you it is not an easy task! We are judiciously watching our expenses as we try to enhance our revenues without raising taxes.

Despite the financial challenges facing the Village, we have had accomplishments too! Some of the more notable ones are as follows: we successfully obtained federal stimulus funding to pave Blackhawk Road thereby accomplishing a \$400,000 project at minimal cost to us. We were able to re-finance our Village debt that allowed us to lower our payments in the near term and pave the Village parking lot which was in desperate need. We obtained our share of a \$10 million park bond tax from Lyons Twp. This amount of \$165,000 will be used to upgrade Blackhawk Park with a new walking path and landscape improvements. I expect this project to be moving forward in the near future. Finally, working through our State Representative Jim Durkin and our State Senator Christine Radogno, the Illinois Capitol Plan includes \$385,000 in funding for a sidewalk along Willow Springs Road from 65th Street to the Walgreen's drug store, the capping of one of our municipal wells, and for a new water main on Cochise. We also expect to recover about \$25,000 in blizzard related expenses we incurred last winter from FEMA. In short, since I became mayor four years ago, your

continued on page 2

Message continued from page 1

Village Administration has been successful in obtaining the return of nearly \$1 million from taxes paid by all of us to the State and federal government for projects in Indian Head Park. We will not stop here though!

Looking forward to the next four years, we will continue to address the financial challenges facing the Village. A top priority of the Village Board is to reinstate some form of leaf pick-up program when prudent. Painting the regional treasure that we call the Heritage Center is a priority and hopefully will be a reality in the near future. Another top priority is the paving of streets on Arrowhead Trail and in Ashbrook and elsewhere as needed as our revenues permit. I want to improve our Village website and make it a useful resource for our residents, businesses, and contractors who do business in our town. And for those who prefer the hard copy, I am planning some changes to the frequency and content of the Smoke Signals.

Finally, to set the record straight, during the campaign leading to our recent municipal elections on April 5th, a misrepresentation concerning trustee salaries was circulated in the Village. To quote Mark Twain, *"The trouble with the world is not that people know too little, but that they know so many things that just ain't so."* Fortunately, the majority of our residents were not fooled by this misinformation. To set the record straight, a trustee's salary is not \$38,125 per year. Their stipend amounts to a few cents per hour factoring in their costs and taxes.

Another myth circulated in town concerns the lawsuit the Village was compelled to defend a few years ago concerning a fence. The myth accuses the Village of spending money in an attempt to prevent a family with a disabled child for having a fenced-in back yard. The truth is that before the suit was filed, the Village had granted the family the right to a fence around a significant portion of their back yard as a reasonable accommodation in keeping with our local ordinances and the Americans with Disabilities Act. The family was not satisfied with the fence granted them through the Village's zoning process and filed a lawsuit against the

Village anyway. The Village had no choice but to defend itself against this lawsuit. Fortunately, the matter was settled before trial but not until enough money to fund the leaf pick up program for at least two years was spent defending ourselves.

Recently, a resident asked whether the Village had considered surrendering its Certificate of Incorporation as a separate community and annexing into another neighboring town. The answer is NO! We have been our own community for over 50 years and will continue as such. As Mayor, I see it as one of my duties to do everything possible to keep Indian Head Park functioning as a separate and independent Village. Despite what any resident has heard and the financial challenges that we face, matters are not so bad that we should even think about "throwing in the towel" and ceasing to exist. Besides, the law would not allow the Village Board to take action to end our Village and at the same time force everyone to go to another town. Any thought that this would be a way to solve our financial challenges oversimplifies the matter and overlooks a myriad of issues in the event our Village ceased to exist and our neighborhoods became unincorporated. Some of these many issues include questions about what becomes of Village assets (buildings, equipment, streets, and infrastructure), who pays Village debts, who provides your police protection, and who plows your street when it snows. Clearly, we are better off controlling our own future. Furthermore, I subscribe to the values and fortitude that when the going gets tough, one does not turn tail and run!

Finally, I want to thank the good citizens of Indian Head Park for entrusting me with the stewardship of our fine Village for another four years. It is a tremendous honor to represent you, and one for which I am sincerely grateful. I appreciate your confidence in me. With your support, I intend to do the very best that I can as Mayor in accordance with the light given to me and to continue along the journey of progress and growth begun by my predecessors in this position during the past 52 years. For the trust that you have placed in me, I am truly humbled.

Respectfully, Richard S. Andrews, Mayor

Smoke Signals
(708) 246-3137

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Smoke Signals is published by the Village of Indian Head Park to inform its residents of present activities in the village and the ever-growing plans for the future in the pursuit of better government and good citizenship.

Teepee Topics news items should be submitted to the Newsletter Coordinator at the Municipal Offices.

Full page advertisements - \$200.00, 1/2 page advertisements - \$125.00, 3 1/2" x 3 1/2" size advertisements - \$75.00, business card size advertisements - \$45.00, trading post advertisements - \$20.00 (no commercial advertisements - the advertisement will run two times at no cost, then a \$20.00 charge).

Extra copies and back issues (up to one year) of *Smoke Signals* can be obtained at the Village Hall.

Deadline date for the next issue is July 21, 2011.
www.indianheadpark-il.gov

VILLAGE OF INDIAN HEAD PARK

201 Acacia Drive, Indian Head Park, IL 60525
(708) 246-3080
www.indianheadpark-il.gov

Office Hours

Mon., Tues., Wed. and Fri 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and
Thursdays, 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.
Closed Saturday, Sunday and Holidays

Mayor: Richard S. Andrews

Trustees: Deborah A. Anselmo Carol Coleman
Brian T. Bailey Norman L. Schnaufer
Anne Bermier Matthew P. Walsh II

Village Clerk: Joseph V. Consolo

**Chief of Police/
Administrator:** Frank Alonzo, Jr.

Police Dept. Non-Emergency 246-4534
Emergency 9-1-1

Fire Dept. Non-Emergency 352-9229
Emergency 9-1-1

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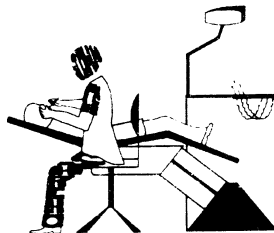
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Scheduled Meeting Dates

Village Board of Trustees 7:30 p.m.:

Thursday, July 14, 2011

Planning and Zoning Commission 7:30 p.m.:

Tuesday, July 12, 2011

Fire/Police Commission 7:00 p.m.:

Thursday, July 7, 2011

E-911 Board 6:30 p.m.:

No meeting scheduled at this time.

All meetings are held at the Municipal Facility at 201 Acacia Drive. All residents are welcomed!

Pleasantdale Park District July 4th Celebration

Once again, the Pleasantdale Park District, located at 7425 Wolf Road in Burr Ridge, will have an incredible fireworks display to celebrate Independence Day on Sunday, July 3rd. For additional information regarding the activities planned for that day, please visit the Pleasantdale Park District Website at: www.pleasantdaleparks.org or call (630) 662-6220.

A Message from the Building Department

A building permit is required prior to starting any building, construction, addition, demolition or remodeling affecting the structural integrity of a building, electrical service upgrades or, plumbing service changes. A "Guide to Obtaining a Building Permit" is available at the Municipal Facility or by visiting the Village's Website at www.indianheadpark-il.gov.

In 2008, the Village Board approved Ordinance #08-4, amending the Indian Head Park Municipal Code regarding certain fees and charges which requires contractors performing work in the Village of Indian Head Park to complete a form and pay the appropriate annual business license fee as listed on the form. A contractor business license is required for any company doing business in town on an annual basis which include landscapers, roofers, paving contractors and other trades that are specifically listed on the contractor business license form which may be obtained at the Village offices or on the Village's website listed above. Homeowners, please inform your contractors of this requirement prior to work commencing.

Tree Preservation

The Village of Indian Head Park is a tree preservation community. Although approval by the Village to trim trees is not needed, a tree permit is required to be completed and submitted to the Village for approval before removing mature trees. A copy of the Village's tree preservation guidelines, permit application procedures and tree permit form may be obtained on the Village's Website at www.indianheadpark-il.gov.

Treating Trunk and Crown Injuries

Pruning branches that are split, torn or broken should be removed. Also, remove any dead, diseased or rubbing limbs from the crown of the tree. Sometimes it is necessary to remove some lower limbs to raise the canopy of a tree and provide clearance below.

Irrigation and Drainage

One of the most important tree maintenance procedures following damage to the tree is to maintain an adequate, but not excessive, supply of water to the root zone. If there is a drainage problem, the trees will decline rapidly. Improper drainage must be corrected if the trees are to be saved. If soil drainage is good, be sure to keep the trees well watered, especially during the dry summer months. A long, slow soak over the entire root zone is the preferred method of watering. Keep the top 12 inches moist, but avoid overwatering. Avoid frequent, shallow watering. Make sure surface water drains away for the tree. Proper irrigation may do more to help trees

recover from stress than anything else you could do.



Improving Aeration of the Root Zone

Drilling Holes/Vertical Mulching

Compaction of the soil and increases in grade both have the effect of depleting the oxygen supply to tree roots. If soil aeration can be improved, root growth and water uptake can be enhanced. A common method of aeration of the root zone involves drilling holes in the ground. Holes are usually 2 to 4 inches in diameter and are made about three feet on center throughout the root zone of the tree. The depth should be at least 12 inches but may need to be deeper if the soil grade has been raised. Sometimes the holes are filled with peat moss, wood chips, pea gravel, or other materials that maintain aeration and support root growth. This process is called vertical mulching.

Monitoring for Tree Decline and Hazards

Symptoms of tree decline include smaller and fewer leaves and dieback in the crown or the tree. If a tree dies as a result of root damage or disease, it may pose a safety hazard and should be removed. Examine your trees for possible cracks in the trunk, split or broken or split branches and dead limbs. Watch for indications of internal decay such as cavities, carpenter ants, soft wood, and mushroom like structures growing on the trunk, root crown or along the major root zone.

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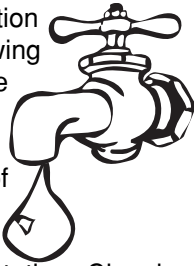
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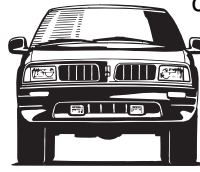
Water Conservation Restrictions

Water from the Village water distribution system may not be used for the following purposes between the hours of twelve noon and six p.m. from May 15th to September 15th: Outdoor Watering – the sprinkling, watering or irrigating of shrubbery, trees, lawns, grass, ground covers, plants, vines, gardens, vegetables, flowers or any other vegetation. Cleaning Outdoor Surfaces – The washing of driveways, porches and other outdoor surfaces. However, any person installing sod or other landscaping material will be allowed unrestricted sprinkling privileges for a period of twenty-four hours from initial installation with the water conservation restrictions stated to take effect after this grace period.



Village Vehicle Stickers

Please note that deadline to purchase and display the current Village of Indian Head Park vehicles stickers is June 30, 2011. If you did not receive a form, you may print and complete an application on the Village's website at www.indianheadpark-il.gov. For your convenience, completed forms and a check payable to the Village of Indian Head Park may be deposited in the payment drop box in the Village parkway area of the Municipal Facility and we will return your stickers by mail. Also, stickers may be purchased during regular posted office hours. (The fee before June 30th is \$50.00 per vehicle for passenger cars. Penalties are in effect on July 1st).



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TEEPEE TOPICS

Congratulations to Shannon Toland who earned a 4.0 grade average for the last semester at Eastern Illinois University.

Tour Chicago's Plymouth Rock in Portage Woods Forest Preserve at 4800 South Harlem Avenue (on the west side of Harlem Avenue, 2 blocks north of the Stevenson Expressway (I-55), the first Saturday of each month at 10:00 a.m. through November 5, 2011.

The Chicago Portage National Historic site is the only major remnant of the discovery and settlement of Chicago. Situated in the heart of the Illinois and Michigan Canal National Heritage Corridor, the Chicago Portage is the only one of two National Historic sites in Illinois. Reservations for individuals are not required. Tours are 2 hours in length. For further information, please visit the following Website: www.chicagoportage.org

*** For information purposes only-- Additional information regarding the Water Quality Assurance Report as required by the E.P.A.:**

Source Water Assessment

We want our valued customers to be informed about their water quality. If you would like to learn more, please feel welcome to attend any of our meetings. The source water assessment for our supply has been completed by the Illinois EPA.

If you would like a copy of this information, please stop by the Village Hall or call our water operator at (708) 246-3154. To view a summary version of the completed Source Water Assessments including: importance of source water, susceptibility to contamination determination and documentation/recommendation of source water protection efforts.

For information regarding this topic, you may access the Illinois EPA website at <http://www.epa.state.il.us/cgi-bin/wp/swap-fact-sheets.pl>. The Illinois EPA considers all surface water sources of community water supply to be susceptible to potential pollution problems. The very nature of surface water allows contaminants to migrate into the intake with no protection only dilution. This is the reason for mandatory treatment for all surface water supplies in Illinois. Chicago's offshore intakes are located at a distance that shoreline impacts are not usually considered a factor on water quality. At certain times of the year, however, the potential for contamination exists due to wet-weather flows and river reversals. In addition, the placement of the crib structures may serve to attract waterfowl, gulls and terns that frequent the Great Lakes area, thereby concentrating fecal deposits at the intake and thus compromising the source water quality. USEPA prescribes regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. FDA regulations establish limits of contaminants in bottled water, which must provide the same protection for public health.

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